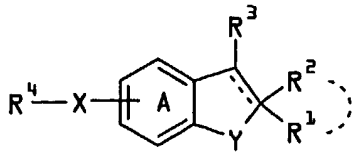
Claims 1-10 (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Amended) A compound of the formula:



wherein R^1 and R^2 are each a C_{1-6} alkyl or R^1 and R^2 form, taken together with the adjacent carbon atom, a piperidine optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{6-14} aryl and C_{7-16} aralkyl;

R^3 is a phenyl optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, amino, mono-C_{1-6} alkylamino and di-C_{1-6} alkylamino;

R^4 is

(i) C_{1-6} alkyl substituted by a phenyl or pyridyl, each of which is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, hydroxy, amino, mono-C_{1-6} alkylamino, di-C_{1-6} alkylamino and carboxy, or

(ii) an acyl of the formula: -(C=O)-$R^{5'}$ wherein $R^{5'}$ is a phenyl or phenyl-C_{1-6} alkyl, each of which is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, hydroxy, amino, mono-C_{1-6} alkylamino, di-C_{1-6} alkylamino and carboxy;

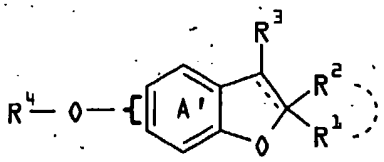
X is an oxygen atom;

Y is an oxygen atom; and

ring A is a benzene ring which is optionally further substituted by 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, halogenated or unhalogenated C_{1-6} alkyl, halogenated or unhalogenated C_{1-6} alkoxy, amino, mono-C_{1-6} alkylamino and di-C_{1-6} alkylamino,

and salts thereof.

12. (Previously Amended) A compound of the formula:



wherein R^1 and R^2 are each C_{1-6} alkyl or R^1 and R^2 form, taken together with the adjacent carbon atom, a piperidine substituted by a C_{1-6} alkyl or a C_{7-16} aralkyl;

R^3 is a phenyl optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of (1) C_{1-6} alkyl, (2) di-C_{1-6} alkylamino and (3) 6-membered saturated cyclic amino optionally substituted by a C_{1-6} alkyl,

R^4 is

(i)a phenyl optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of nitro and C_{1-6} alkyl-carboxamido,

(ii) a C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{2-6} alkenyl group substituted by 1 to 3 of phenyl, quinolyl or pyridyl, each of which is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkylthio, C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl and C_{1-6} alkylsulfinyl, which C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{2-6} alkenyl group is optionally further substituted by a phenyl, carboxy or C_{1-6} alkoxy-carbonyl, or

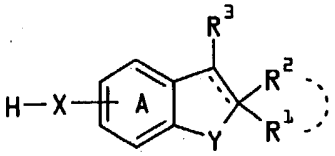
(iii) an acyl of the formula: $-(C=O)-R^{5''}$

wherein $R^{5''}$ is phenyl substituted by a C_{1-6} alkoxy; and

ring A' is a benzene ring which is optionally further substituted by 1 to 3 C_{1-6} alkyl, and salts thereof.

13. (Previously Amended) 3-(4-isopropylphenyl)-2,4,6,7-tetramethylbenzofuran-5-yl 4-methoxybenzoate, 3-(4-isopropylphenyl)-5-(4-methoxybenzyloxy)-2,4,6,7-tetramethylbenzofuran, 3-(4-isopropylphenyl)-5-(4-methoxybenzyloxy)-1',4,6,7-tetramethylspiro(benzofuran-2(3H), 4'-piperidine), or a salt thereof.

14. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a compound of Claim ~~1~~ 11, which comprises reacting a compound of the formula:

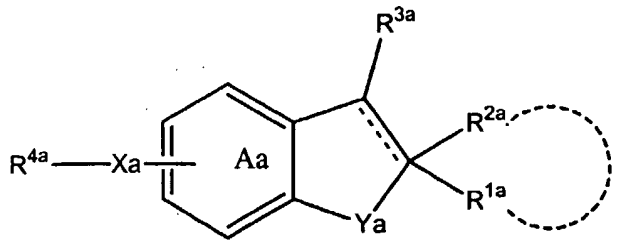


wherein each symbol is as defined in Claim ~~1~~ 11, or a salt thereof with a compound of the formula: R^4-L wherein L represents a leaving group and R^4 is as defined in Claim ~~1~~ 11, or salt thereof.

15. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound of Claim ~~1~~ 11, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient or diluent.

Claims 16-21 (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) A method for suppressing β-amyloid toxicity in a mammal, which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 11 ~~the formula:~~



~~wherein R^{1a} and R^{2a} each represents a hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group which is optionally substituted, or R^{1a} and R^{2a} form, taken together with the adjacent carbon atom, a 3- to 8-membered carbo or heterocyclic unsubstituted or substituted ring;~~

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~~R^{3a} represents a hydrogen atom or an unsubstituted or substituted phenyl group;~~

~~R^{4a} represents an unsubstituted or substituted aliphatic hydrocarbon group;~~

~~Xa represents an oxygen atom;~~

~~Ya represents an oxygen atom;~~

~~— represents a single bond or a double bond;~~

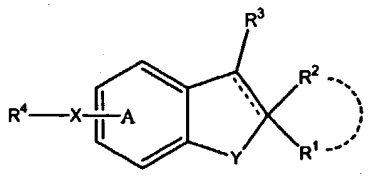
~~ring Aa represents a benzene ring which is optionally further substituted apart from (i) the group of the formula: -Xa-R^{4a} wherein each symbol is as defined above, and (ii) an unsubstituted or substituted amino,~~

~~or a salt thereof~~.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Added) 3-(4-Isopropylphenyl)-5-(4-methoxybenzyloxy)-2,2,4,6,7-pentamethyl-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran.

25. (Previously Added) A method for suppressing β-amyloid toxicity in a mammal, which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of the formula:



wherein R^1 and R^2 each represent an acyclic hydrocarbon group or a cycloalkyl group;

R^3 represents an unsubstituted or substituted phenyl group;

R^4 represents an aliphatic hydrocarbon group substituted by an unsubstituted or substituted aromatic group, which hydrocarbon group is optionally further substituted;

X and Y each represent an oxygen atom;

------- represents a single bond or a double bond;

and Ring A represents a benzene which is optionally further substituted apart from the group of the formula: $-X-R^4$ wherein each symbol is as defined above,

or a salt thereof.

26. (Previously Added) A method of claim 25, which is a method for treating Alzheimer's disease.

Claim 27 (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Added) A method of claim 22, which is a method for treating Alzheimer's disease.

29. (Cancelled)